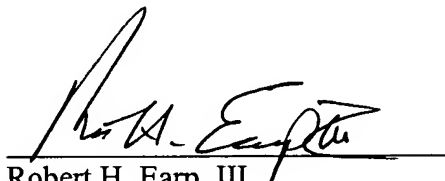


REMARKS

Please enter the above preliminary amendment amending claim 1, canceling claims 2 through 44, and adding new claims 45 through 63 prior to calculating the filing fees required. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully requests the early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) [An article comprising a substrate having on at least a portion of its surface a multi-layer coating] A decorative or shiny coating for an article, said coating comprising:

a first layer comprised of polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said [substrate] article; and

a second layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said [layer comprised of polymeric material; and

a layer comprised of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said layer comprised o zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound] first layer.

Please add claims 45 through 63 as follows:

45. (New) The coating of claim 1 wherein said first layer of polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester, polymethacrylate, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, alkyd resin, polyethylene, and blends and copolymers thereof.

46. (New) The coating of claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, a carbide, or a carbonitride of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy.

47. (New) The coating of claim 1 further comprising a third layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said second layer.

48. (New) A decorative or shiny coating for an article, said coating comprising:

a first layer comprised of polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article;

a second layer selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy on said first layer; and

a third layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said second layer.

49. (New) The coating of claim 48 wherein said first layer of polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester, polymethacrylate, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, alkyd resin, polyethylene, and blends and copolymers thereof.

50. (New) The coating of claim 48 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, a carbide, or a carbonitride of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy.

51. (New) The coating of claim 48 further comprising a fourth layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said third layer.

52. (New) A decorative or shiny coating for an article, said coating comprising:

a first layer comprised of polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and

a sandwich layer comprised of alternating layers of compounds selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

53. (New) The coating of claim 52 wherein said first layer of polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester, polymethacrylate, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, alkyd resin, polyethylene, and blends and copolymers thereof.

54. (New) The coating of claim 52 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, a carbide, or a carbonitride of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy.

55. (New) The coating of claim 54 wherein said sandwich layer is comprised of alternating layers comprised of zirconium nitride and titanium nitride.

56. (New) The coating of claim 52 further comprising a top layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said sandwich layer.

57. (New) The coating of claim 52 further comprising a layer selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy disposed intermediate said first layer and said sandwich layer.

58. (New) A method for providing a decorative or shiny appearance to an article, said method comprising:

applying a first layer comprised of a polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and

applying a second layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 further comprising the step of applying a third layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said second layer.

60. (New) A method for providing a decorative or shiny appearance to an article, said method comprising:

applying a first layer comprised of a polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article;

applying a second layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy on said first layer; and

applying a third layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said second layer.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 further comprising the step of applying a fourth layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said third layer.

62. (New) A method for providing a decorative or shiny appearance to an article, said method comprising:

applying a first layer comprised of a polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and

applying a sandwich layer comprised of alternating layers of compounds selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of applying a layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said sandwich layer.